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██████████, OBI/CIA

With two weeks intervening before the NIS Committee takes up other scheduling and your 6 November memo, it seems timely to underline to you and General Maples my previous expressions of concern about proposed cutbacks in coverage, together with hope that in the interim there might be some alleviation for FY66 and indication of further gain after that. As we both know, hard-bitten experience has made a strong case for NIS military geography coverage which will be published and at hand if a whistle blows, and can mean critical savings in time and production efforts when crash requirements hit. I had suggested we might suspend Section 21's in favor of Section 24 coverage. But a rate of five Section 24's per year would seriously slow up our remaining initial coverage on an African continent which claims high priority. It would slow up maintenance on these and other Areas where we can expect significant expansion of the often far-from-adequate knowledge available for the pressing initial coverage, and maintenance needed to meet requirements which have changed since publication of the material. I am also concerned about proposed reduction in the urban areas coverage, where it would appear some economies in production might be worked out. The underlying problems are all too evident, but I am seriously concerned about reduction in our military geography coverage and am convinced of the user pay-off that will result from anything you and General Maples can manage which will enable us to more fully meet the reiterated demand for this most basic type of intelligence coverage.

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